

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method for delivering a medicament to an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a product that includes a consumable center and a coating that substantially surrounds the consumable center, the coating containing a medicament and comprising at least 50% by weight of the product; and

placing the product in the mouth of the individual and causing the medicament to be released from the product into the buccal cavity of the individual.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the coating includes a high-intensity sweetener.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the high-intensity sweetener is chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, and acesulfame-k.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the coating is produced by alternating layers of a powder and a syrup onto the tableted center.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the consumable center is selected from the group consisting of a gummi confectionary, hard confectionary, confectionary starch, compressible sacharides, and compressible sugar alcohols.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; nutraceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; vitamins; minerals; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1 wherein the coating has a polished finish.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A product comprising [including] a medicament comprising:

a consumable center; and

a coating comprising the medicament, wherein said coating surrounds the consumable center, the coating comprising at least 50% by weight of the product.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The product of Claim 8 wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; stimulants; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; nutaceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 10 (original): The product of Claim 8 wherein the coating includes a taste masking agent.

Claim 11 (original): The product of Claim 10 wherein the taste masking agent is chosen from the group consisting of: zinc gluconate, ethyl maltol, glycine, acesulfame-k, aspartame; saccharin; fructose; xylitol; isomalt; maltitol; spray dried licorice root; glycyrrhizine; sodium gluconate; glucono delta-lactone; ethyl vanillin; dextrose; sucralose; vanillin; and ethyl maltol.

Claim 12 (original): The product of Claim 10 wherein the taste masking agent comprises approximately 30% to about 99% by weight of the coating.

Claim 13 (original): The product of Claim 8 wherein the coating includes approximately 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a high-intensity sweetener chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, sucralose, saccharine, and acesulfame-k.

Claim 14 (original): The product of Claim 8 wherein the consumable center is selected from the group consisting of hard confectionaries, gummi confectionaries, confectionary starches, and compressible excipients.

Claim 15 (original): The product of Claim 8 wherein the coating does not have a shellac layer.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A product comprising [including] a medicament comprising:

a consumable tableted center; and

a coating comprising the medicament that at least substantially surrounds the consumable tableted center, the coating comprising at least 50% of the product by weight.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The product of Claim 16 wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; stimulants; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; nutraceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 18 (original): The product of Claim 16 wherein the consumable center is selected from the group consisting of hard confectionaries, gummi confectionaries, confectionary starches, and compressible excipients.

Claim 19 (original): The product of Claim 16 wherein a taste masking agent comprises approximately 30% to about 99% by weight of the coating.

Claim 20 (original): The product of Claim 16 wherein the coating includes approximately 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a high-intensity sweetener chosen from the group consisting of aspartame, sucralose, saccharine, and acesulfame-k.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method of delivering a medicament comprising the steps of:

providing a product having a consumable center and a coating that substantially surrounds the center, the center comprising at least one compressible excipient and the coating including a medicament and comprising at least 50% by weight of the product; and

chewing the product to release the medicament into a buccal cavity of an individual chewing the product.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 21 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; nutraceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; vitamins; minerals; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The product of Claim 21 wherein the consumable center is selected from the group consisting of hard confectionaries, gummi confectionaries, confectionary starches, and compressible excipients.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a product containing an agent comprising the steps of:

preparing a center by tableting a consumable product to produce a tableted consumable center; and

coating the tableted consumable center by placing alternating layers of a powder and a syrup on the center to create a coated product, at least one of the powder or syrup layers including at least one agent.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein the coated product comprises at least 50% by weight syrup and powder coating.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein the tableted consumable center includes at least one compressible excipient chosen from the group consisting of saccharides and sugar alcohols.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein the coating includes a high-intensity sweetener.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein the agent is a medicament.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 28 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; nutraceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; vitamins; minerals; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein at least two alternating layers are coated on to the tableted consumable center.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 24 wherein the powder comprises at least 70% by weight of the coating.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): A method of delivering a medicament comprising the steps of:
providing a product including a consumable center having a predefined shape and a coating that surrounds the center that includes a medicament; and
chewing the product for a sufficient time to cause a majority of the medicament to be absorbed by a buccal cavity of the consumer.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 32 wherein the product comprises at least 50% by weight syrup and powder coating.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 32 wherein the medicament is chosen from the group consisting of: analgesics; muscle relaxants; antibiotics; antivirals; antihistamines; decongestants; anti-inflammatories; antacids; psychotherapeutic agents; insulin; vitamins; minerals; nutraceuticals; nutritional supplements; diuretics; vitamins; minerals; anesthetics; antitussives; bioengineered pharmaceuticals; and cardiovascular agents.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 32 wherein the coating includes a high-intensity sweetener.